

FOCUS ON THE FIRST

MONTHLY CONSTITUENT NEWSLETTER

OFFICE OF COUNCILMAN CHRIS FORD
LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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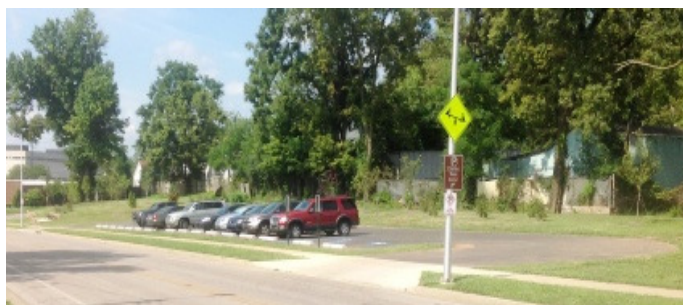
A CHANGE OF PACE FOR EAST THIRD STREET



Recently installed multi-way stop at E. Third Street & Shropshire Boulevard.

Over the past 18 months, our 1st District Council Office has led efforts for traffic & parking improvements along East Third Street (500 block). These features are designed to calm traffic, improve safety, and enhance bicycle & pedestrian activity. These recent adjustments result from thorough analysis, prior to their implementation. Each project also properly addressed recommendations identified in the East End Small Area Plan.

I personally extend thanks to the Divisions of Traffic Engineering, and Parks & Recreation, for its leadership & technical expertise. In addition, the William Wells Brown Neighborhood Association & Charles Young Center Advisory Board also played key roles in community engagement & public input processes.



Off-street parking lot at Shropshire provides 17 designated parking spaces for the Charles Young Community Center and Park.



(See more photos on Page 3)



Chris Ford
1st District Councilman

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR:

11—*Patriot Day* | Council Meeting
6:00 pm

18—Dr. Ezra Greenspan Book Talk
& Signing 4:00 pm (Third Street Café) |
Free Presentation to the General
Public & Reception 6:30 pm (Lyric
Theatre)

20—BCTC Newtown Campus Com-
munity Day 1-4 pm (500 Newtown
Pike) | Johnson Highway Day Block
Party Fundraiser 4-8pm (Johnson Ave.)

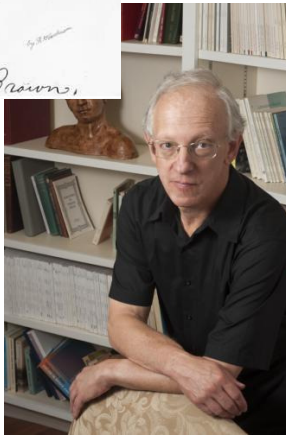
25—Council Meeting 6:00 pm

27—Community Action Council's
LexEndPoverty w/Dr. Cornel West
5:30 pm (Lyric Theatre)

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NEIGHBORHOOD & SCHOOL LEADERS TO HOST WILLIAM WELLS BROWN BIOGRAPHER'S RETURN TO LEXINGTON



This month, the East End community is proud to welcome Dr. Ezra Greenspan back to Lexington. Dr. Greenspan, a professor at the Dedman College of Humanities & Sciences at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, is visiting Lexington to talk to students and the general public about William Wells Brown. He will not only speak on Wells Brown but will also promote his forthcoming biography of the famous writer titled, *William Wells Brown: An African American Life*.

William Wells Brown, a native of Lexington, was born into slavery in November 1814, but found freedom when he escaped to Cincinnati, Ohio in 1834. During his lifetime, Wells Brown worked as an abolitionist lecturer, novelist, playwright and historian. His novel, *Clotel; or, The President's Daughter* (1853), is considered to be the first novel published by an African American.

Dr. Greenspan says its important to read about William Wells Brown because he was "the most rivetingly inventive, entertaining black writer of his era."

On September 18th, Dr. Greenspan will visit students at four schools located in the 1st District: STEAM Academy, Lexington Traditional Magnet, William Wells Brown Elementary & Sayre.

At 4:00 pm he will speak to a small crowd and sign his book at Third Street Café and later that evening, Dr. Greenspan will give a presentation on his work for the general public at the Lyric Theatre & Cultural Arts Center at 6:30. The free event and reception is sponsored by the William Wells Brown Neighborhood Association.



TRANSLYVANIA UNIVERSITY WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT — DR. SEAMUS CAREY

This fall, students and faculty at Transylvania University welcome a new President. Dr. Seamus Carey was named the University's 26th President this summer. Dr. Carey is a native of New York, and most recently served as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn.

I enjoyed my visit to campus earlier this summer to meet Dr. Carey. On behalf of the 1st Council District, I join the Transy community in welcoming Dr. Carey and his family to Lexington.



On September 17th, Transylvania University will be celebrate the signing of the United States Constitution by hosting a Constitution Day Panel Discussion. Panelists will discuss the Constitution's meaning to them and why. I am proud to participate as one of four panelists asked to participate this year. I am looking forward to engaging with Transy students and other panelists on this historic yet pertinent topic.



RUSSELL CAVE CORRIDOR NEIGHBORHOODS MEET WITH POLICE & COUNCIL OFFICE

Public safety is a concern and importance to neighborhoods throughout Lexington. This is also particularly true for the residents in the neighborhoods along the Russell Cave Road corridor. I recently met with residents from the *Green Acres/HollowCreek/Breckenridge, Brookfield Chase, Winburn, Elkhorn Park, Radcliffe-Marlboro* and *Joyland* neighborhood associations to discuss various aspects of safety. Police Officers from the West Sector Bureau of Patrol joined the discussion and shared important information with residents to help improve safety in their neighborhoods.

The most encouraging part of the meeting was when discussing methods of communication between residents and Police. Residents have now been given contact information for West Sector Commander John Gensheimer, and been advised to contact him directly if they have any questions or concerns.

Residents, Police and the 1st District Council Office have agreed to work together to communicate more effectively about public safety in the Russell Cave Road corridor. We're exploring the idea of having regularly scheduled meetings, sending out bi-weekly safety reports and/or creating a corridor safety watch team. Residents plan to improve their neighborhood phone trees & email distribution lists.



CLEAR Unit Community Resource Officer, Daniel Burnett, speaks to residents at the Northside Library on August 26th.

BLACK CHURCH COALITION HEARS UPDATE ON NEW SENIOR CENTER



Councilman Ford welcomed the Black Church Coalition to the Charles Young Community Center.

The Charles Young Community Center proudly welcomed the Black Church Coalition of the Bluegrass to their facility last month. The non-profit organization, led by Chairman, the Rev. Troy Thomas, gives back to the community by providing financial assistance for monthly housing expenses and utility payments. Each month, the organization meets in a different location throughout Lexington.

Partnering for the past three years, the 1st District Council Office and Department of Social Services co-sponsored the Coalition's August meeting.

While enjoying lunch, members were given a brief presentation on the city's future Senior Center. Beth Mills, Commissioner of Social Services, provided a synopsis of the project by explaining the services that will be provided in the new facility. Commissioner Mills also described the building's layout and showed the conceptual designs for the \$13 million dollar project. The new center will be located in Idle Hour Park and is expected to open in 2016.

E. THIRD STREET (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)



Lewis Street has been converted from two-way to one-way. 28 angled spaces were marked for on-street parking.



New striping on E. Third Street shifted the center line southward and added designated spaces for parallel parking.



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Councilman Chris Ford

CITY NAMES FORMER STATE HOUSING OFFICIAL TO LEAD LOCAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING OFFICE



Mayor Jim Gray recently named Richard L. McQuady as director of the newly created Office of Affordable Housing. McQuady, a resident of Lexington, recently retired as chief executive officer of the Kentucky Housing Corporation, where he served in various leadership capacities for over 28 years. His responsibilities at KHC included oversight of both finance and homeownership programs.

In McQuady's new role, he will also work in conjunction with an advisory board to study housing market conditions, propose affordable housing programs, and work with partner agencies to evaluate program effectiveness.

Earlier this year, the city dedicated \$3 million in initial funding for the Office of Affordable Housing and \$500,000 for a homelessness fund. The Office of Homelessness Prevention and Intervention and McQuady's office will work together to develop a 5-year strategic plan and housing needs assessment.

I am both personally excited & encouraged by this appointment. In my opinion, Rick McQuady is the ideal candidate to help advance affordable housing in Lexington. I've had the good fortune to work with Rick during my tenure in local non-profit affordable housing. Our community will benefit immensely from his vast knowledge of affordable housing finance & project development.

PUBLIC SAFETY CONTACTS FOR 1ST DISTRICT RESIDENTS



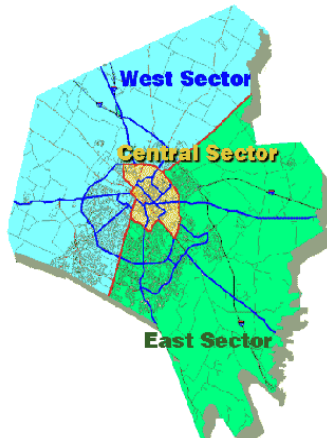
DIVISION OF POLICE
150 E. MAIN STREET
LEXINGTON, KY 40507

Emergencies 9-1-1
Non-emergencies 258-3600

Commander John Gensheimer
West Sector
jgensheimer@lexingtonpolice.ky.gov
425-2371

Commander Melissa Sedlaczek
Central Sector
msedlaczek@lexingtonpolice.ky.gov
425-2391

To Access Free Public Crime Map for Lexington visit:
www.RAIDSOnline.com



LOCAL PASTORS FOCUS ON EDUCATION

The Interdenominational Pastoral Fellowship of Lexington & Vicinity invites you to attend the:

4th Annual Urban Educational Summit
September 27th, 8:30 am—3:00 pm
Bryan Station High School
201 East Road
Lexington, KY 40505

The event provides workshops for parents to become more engaged with their students.

Staff and students (grades 3-12) are welcome to attend.

Writing consultant and creator, *Erik Cork*, will be there to present his musically motivating literacy seminar, *Rap, Rhythm & Rhyme: Rebuilding the Writing Foundation*.

